

# Wayne Allard

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## **SENATOR ALLARD SUCCESSFULLY RESTORES \$147 MILLION IN FUNDING AUTHORITY FOR PUEBLO DEPOT WEAPONS CLEANUP**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) emerged from a Senate Armed Services Subcommittee meeting Friday to announce that he was successful in getting funding authority restored for the chemical weapons cleanup at the U.S. Army's Pueblo Depot.

"We have scored a major victory for the people of Pueblo and southern Colorado," Senator Allard said.

"The Senate Armed Services Committee voted to authorize \$147 million be restored so that the project can move ahead on schedule," the Senator said. "This means the Pueblo Depot project now has a good chance of going forward, on time, as planned."

The Department of Defense's (DOD) initial FY2005 budget request for the project, made in February, would have resulted in a shortfall in funding and, as a result, raised the risk that the cleanup would be delayed.

"The DOD's earlier funding request was inadequate and contrary to the stated goal of the Department of Defense's Chemical Weapons Demilitarization program: the accelerated destruction of our chemical weapons stockpile by 2012," Senator Allard said. "But I prevailed on the Committee to give the Pueblo Depot project the high-priority funding status it deserves."

"Bottom line here is that the facility's weapons stockpile needs to be disposed of for homeland security reasons and in order to meet the 2012 Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty deadline," Senator Allard added.

In the next few weeks Senator Allard is planning to meet with Under Secretary of Defense Michael Wynne, the senior Defense Department official in charge of this program, to discuss getting the program back on track.

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